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NEWS RELEASE

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RIO LINDA MAN INDICTED FOR DISPENSING MARIJUANA

SACRAMENTO-- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott and Assistant Special Agent Charge Gordon D. Taylor, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Sacramento District Office announced today that a federal grand jury returned a three-count indictment charging LOUIS WAYNE FOWLER, 51, of Rio Linda, California, with manufacturing more than 1,000 marijuana plants, carrying and possessing a firearm in relation to a drug trafficking offense, and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

This case is the product of an extensive/joint investigation by the DEA and the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department of FOWLER who was operating a business known as Alternative Specialties, located at 9205 Folsom Boulevard, Sacramento, which dispensed marijuana on a large scale.

According to Assistant United States Attorney William Wong, who is prosecuting the case, court documents previously filed in this matter state that law enforcement officers seized 816 live marijuana plants from FOWLER's place of business on July 7, 2005, and 288 live marijuana plants from an indoor grow found in a barn next to FOWLER's residence at 6124 20th Street, Rio Linda. On that same day, officers also executed a search warrant on FOWLER's person, as well as his 1993 Mercedes Benz, 500 SEL, California license number 4MJG236. Officers found a loaded Beretta .32 semi-automatic pistol in FOWLER's pants pocket and a

Intratec 9mm assault weapon loaded with 19 rounds of ammunition on the front floorboard of FOWLER's vehicle. Inside the vehicle, officers found approximately 4-5 pounds of processed marijuana and \$31,000.00 in U.S. currency.

According to United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott, "Lest there be any question as to the propriety of federal enforcement actions against those exploiting California's medical marijuana laws, one need look no further than today's indictment. The defendant is a gun-toting drug dealer, pure and simple."

"This is another example of a dangerous criminal who attempted to hide behind state marijuana laws while he carried out an illegal drug operation. Guns and illegal drugs are always a dangerous combination," stated Gordon D. Taylor, Agent in Charge of the Sacramento DEA Office.

If convicted, the maximum penalty under federal law for each offense of is a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years to life and a \$4,000,000.00 fine for manufacturing more than 1,000 marijuana plants, a mandatory sentence of 5 years to life and \$250,000.00 fine for carrying and possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking offense, and a sentence of not more than 10 years and \$250,000.00 fine for possession of a firearm after having been previously been convicted of a felony.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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